

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders,—by May 26th, for the erection of sundry buildings and works, at the new barracks, at Awlerton, near Sheffield; by April 14th, for sundry earthwork to be done in the removal and levelling of ground at East Hill, Wandsworth; by 25th, for the erection of St. John's Church, Kingsdown, near Walmer, Kent; by May 2nd, for the erection of additional buildings at the Queen's College, Birmingham; by 23rd instant, for certain works and additions to the laundries and drying rooms of the workhouse at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; by 26th, for the erection of an infirmary and other works, as an addition to the Wandsworth and Clapham Union Workhouse; by a date not specified, for the erection of a new Pauper Lunatic Asylum, for Wilts, at Levises, and for a large quantity of cast-iron columns, sashes, and joists for same, separate tenders; by 30th, for the erection of the Normal College for Wales, at Swansea; by 24th, for the erection and completion of a brick warehouse at Bolton; by same date, for the supply of boiler plates, bar and angle iron, spring steel, copper, brass tubes, &c. for Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, also for materials for waggon for same; by same date, for various articles in iron, copper, brass, &c., and for paints, glass, &c., for Glasgow and Ayr Railway Company; by 2nd May, for the supply of materials for the metropolitan roads; and by 24th April, for a supply of English tough cast copper at Chatham.

COMPETITION.—Resilient architects in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields are invited to compete for the erection of new national schools in that parish.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OF THE CIVIL SURVEYORS.—Sir: In your paper of last week, under the heading "Ordnance Survey," is the following paragraph:—"It also stated the fact, that although the estimated cost of the survey was 24,000*l.*, the work would be completed for 3,000*l.* within that amount, and 5,000*l.* below the estimate given in by the 'Civil Surveyors.'" In this there must be some mistake, as on referring to the published papers of the "Surveyors' Association," I find, that while the estimate furnished by the Ordnance Department to the Commissioners of Sewers for a block plan and levels of London, within a radius of eight miles round St. Paul's, was 19,944*l.*, exclusive of 4,270*l.* for the triangulation, making together 24,214*l.*; the estimate of the Civil Surveyors was 14,300*l.*, at which sum they were very desirous to undertake the work, and offered to give approved security, and suffer heavy penalties if it was not completed within six months of the date of contract. By your paragraph we are to assume that the survey will be completed by the "Ordnance Surveyors" for about 21,000*l.*, and my object is to show, that that sum is not 5,000*l.* below the estimate of the "Civil Surveyors" but, on the contrary, exceeds it.—**EDW. RYNE**, Upper Belgrave-place.

LEARNED DISQUISITION ON GUTTA PERCHA.—A lively controversy has been going on in the Edinburgh journals between Professor McLean, the well-known linguist, and Mrs. Jamieson, on the pronunciation of the 'percha' in 'gutta percha.' It is 'perks' according to the lady, 'persha,'—the linguist. Now, we are greatly mistaken if both be not wrong. The word is native Malay, and not only the original importers of the article, but the Malays themselves are said to have declared it to be 'persha,' and if so, not being very profoundly versed in the Malay lingo, we certainly prefer following the authority even of a native barbarian rather than that of the best known 'linguist' in the north. But the professor of botany, then, must be supposed to know something about it, seeing that the tree which yields it holds, or ought to hold, a place in his 'album,' and the professor, as an umpire, authoritatively declares in favour of his fellow professor, stigmatising the lady's dictum—moreover, as "an unadulterated cockneyism." The cockney naturalist, however, whose researches led him to the fishmongers' museum of piscatorial history on the look out for gutta percha soles, must have ranked the gutta percha with the sole tribe as a hybrid with the 'perch,' and, being doubtless versed in Latin terminology, must have asked for "gutta percha soles."

DOCKYARD REDUCTIONS.—"From every dockyard," says the *Morning Herald*, "we have the most lamentable statements of reductions on Saturday last—hundreds of poor fellows left her Majesty a service to starve, or to become chargeable to the parish; whilst others—the very best men of the establishment, and quite as good as those left behind—men who have 'borne the heat and burden of the day'—were seen, with heavy hearts, lug-ging their chests of tools out of those gates which they have been accustomed to enter for the last thirty years. The Government have much to answer for in respect of these reductions, which should have been gradually, and not so summarily made. Confidence is utterly shaken throughout the Royal establishments, and the result is, every good man without influence, will try to better himself out of the service the moment he sees there is an opportunity."—"One of the consequences," remarks the *Hampshire Advertiser*, "must be an increase of the poor's-rates. We think, if reductions are inevitable, and we fear they are, they might have been made in a different way. In all cases of this kind, Government invariably begin at the wrong end. Why not cut down high salaries? abolish useless offices?" Between 600 and 700 men are here thrown out of employ, whereas by the course suggested probably not even a dozen might have been deprived of their securities, and yet have had abundant other means of upholding life, not only in all its essentials, but in all its comforts and luxuries too. Here is the way in which the heart of the poor man is soured and disgusted with his rulers—one and all, and the prolific seeds of Chartism and crime but too abundantly sown.—Not amongst discharged officials alone, but amongst all of the same class, ay, and of others also, who sympathise with them.

WANT OF AMBITION AMONG WORKING MEN.—There is no such startling difference in the emoluments of classes, as in their habits and social peculiarities. The half-pay officer, the dissenting clergyman, or curate of the establishment, the government or mercantile clerk, draw salaries which are often exceeded by those of working men, yet they do not consider it their duty to appear in filthy attire, or to expend a third of their income at the tavern; and, on the other hand, they do not give testimony to their utter want of self-command by requiring that their wages should be paid weekly. It is an appalling thing to reflect how large a fund, if we look on it merely as a pecuniary question, is sunk in that unfortunate peculiarity which prevents the workman from raising the tone of his mind, and the character of his habits, above the level of the lowest of his fraternity. It is natural to anticipate that when accident throws enlarged funds into the possession of the more unskilled hand-labourer, they should be wasted and misapplied; but the class influences rise higher, and are found so tainting the able and accomplished workman, as frequently to make his ingenuity and energy contribute to demoralise and degrade him. An employer of skilled workmen lately told the author of these remarks that he gave out work occasionally to a man who could make 1*l.* a-day, and who, both by his skill and his income, might be expected to take his rank among professional men. But nominally he was a worker; he stuck to his order, and would not permit his capacities to raise him above his brethren, so that he never saved a farthing from the tavern, and was then lying penniless in a public-hospital.—*Burton's Political and Social Economy.*

SUPPLY OF WATER.—At the last returns there were 70,000 houses out of 270,000 that had no water supply whatever; and though it is asserted that the number has since diminished, the supply of water to the poor in general is so exceedingly scanty in many districts, that it is practically a perfect mockery. Seventy thousand houses inhabited by the poor, with an average of only two families to a house, would give 700,000 persons who have to beg or steal water every day for the ordinary necessities of existence. Although the practice of reducing to figures and to a money value, the sanitary ills endured, is to a certain extent a pandering to the vicious system which prompts an Englishman always, when first considering a new project, to regard it in a mere money point of view, still it has its

benefits in being an *argumentum ad hominem*, of no inconsiderable value, in determining a speedy conclusion. Now, if the very hardness of the water of London alone leads to an outlay of soap and soda of, at the least, double the amount absolutely requisite, and that amount be 630,000*l.*, it is surely worth while to determine whether an actual waste of 315,000*l.* should be annually tolerated in the metropolis. But if we embrace the moral and physical evils, and combine with them the sum of the pecuniary loss entailed by the present scanty and intermittent supply of impure, often dirty, water to London, such an array of facts would stand forth as to cause every inhabitant to cry shame upon those whose duty it should happen to be to present a remedy for such a condition of things.—*Health of Towns Journal.*

NEW CALCULATING MACHINE.—Two miserably poor young men, residing in an obscure village in the department of the Isere, in France, have succeeded, it is said, after ten years' labour, in completing a machine declared to be superior to any yet invented. The Academy of Sciences have issued "a most eulogistic report" on it. What has become of Mr. Babbage's machine? The only calculation of any importance yet effected by it, we fear, is a never-ending multiplication of expense to the country. What has the calculator been about for so many years, while young men have been growing old and grey, and the middle-aged falling into second childhood—all forgetting that Babbage or his machine ever existed. We will be bound to say that thousands of intelligent young men have sprung up from childhood since this hopeful machine was produced, and are at this moment ignorant of the fact that it ever was produced, far less of the hope that it ever will come to maturity.

THE BRISTOL WATER-WORKS are in an advanced state of progress, and the directors report that the engineer expects to bring the water from the Harptree Coombe springs into the city in the ensuing autumn, and from those at Chewton Mendip in the spring of 1850. More than 50 miles of pipes are laid through the city and suburbs.

WINDOW DUTIES.—The amount of window duty assessed during the year 1847-48 was 1,880,325*l.*; the amount received, 1,811,742*l.*; the number of houses charged to 485,143; and the number of surcharges made to 2,166.

THE SUBTERRANEAN MAP OF PARIS, commenced in 1844, is said to be nearly completed, and will form an atlas of forty-five sheets. It will exhibit, quarter by quarter, all the labyrinthine sinuosities of the ancient quarries and catacombs over which Paris is built, with the corresponding edifices, squares, and streets, above ground.

NOTICE.

"BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL," being Illustrations of recently erected Edifices, and of some of the Architectural Works of the Middle Ages, with Descriptive Particulars. Edited by George Godwin, F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects, &c., &c., &c.

Under the above title it is proposed to publish, in bi-monthly parts, price 2*s.* 6*d.* each, the principal Illustrations of Modern and Medieval Buildings which have appeared from time to time in *THE BUILDER*, with their accompanying descriptive particulars. Each part will contain about eight plates, folio size, and eight pages of letter press, with plans and details. The engravings will be printed separately, with care, on a tinted paper.

The first part will be issued in time to be forwarded with the magazines for May 1, and will contain:—

- Her Majesty's Marine Residence, Osborne; with Plan.
- The Carlton Club House, Pall Mall.
- Church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburg; with Details.
- Kensington Union Workhouse.
- The Liverpool Branch Bank of England; and Details.
- The New Throne, Canterbury Cathedral.
- The North Porch, Restored, of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.
- The Interior of Lincoln's-Inn Hall.

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